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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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02/18/2005

Degenhard Marx

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NATH & ASSOCIATES PLLC
112 South West Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

JEAN-LOUIS, SAMIRA JM

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1617

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/30/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/524,821	Applicant(s) MARX ET AL.	
	Examiner SAMIRA JEAN-LOUIS	Art Unit 1617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-14 and 18-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-14, and 18-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continuation Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 07/22/09 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

This Office Action is in response to the amendment submitted on 07/22/09. Claims 1, 3-14, and 18-21 are currently pending in the application, with claims 2 and 15-17 having being cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3 -14, and 18-21 are being examined on the merits herein.

Receipt of the aforementioned amended claims is acknowledged and has been entered. The Examiner additionally points out that any rejection of record not withdrawn are incorporated by reference and maintained for reasons of record.

Applicant's argument with respect to the rejection of claims 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph has been fully considered. Given that applicant has amended claims 1 to now reflect support for the term "for application to the mucosa" and 8 to now reflect support for "said water-insoluble and/or water-low soluble substances", such

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rejection is now moot. Consequently, the rejection of claims 3-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is hereby withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 3-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been fully considered. Applicant argues that the cited references do not establish a prima facie case of obviousness against the presently claimed invention. Applicant further argues that Magee discloses a laundry list of active ingredients along with PDE4 inhibitors while the present claims do not claim any PDE4 inhibitor in the composition. Such arguments are not persuasive as applicant is arguing the presently amended claims that have yet to be examined. Additionally, the Examiner respectfully points out that while Magee does not anticipate the claims, the disclosure of Magee clearly renders obvious applicant's invention since Magee teach the use of PDE4 inhibitors in combination with active ingredients for the treatment of chronic rhinitis (see Magee, pg. 1, paragraph 0006). Examples of active ingredients that can be used in combination with the PDE4 inhibitors include ciclesonide and antihistamine receptor antagonists such as azelastine (see Magee, pg. 34, paragraph 0218). Thus, regardless if Magee discloses several ingredients, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to choose the aforementioned combination and have a reasonably expectation of success since Magee teaches the aforementioned ingredients in combination with PDE4 inhibitors for the treatment of rhinitis. As for applicant's arguments that PDE4 inhibitors are not taught by the instant claims, such arguments are not persuasive since the open-ended comprising language does not

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exclude addition of other ingredients and can therefore include PDE4 inhibitors in the composition. While applicant asserts that the recitation of azelastine and ciclesonide reflects that only these two ingredients are included in the composition, the Examiner reiterates the fact that the presence of the term “comprising” does not exclude addition of other active ingredients hence the reason why Magee renders such claims obvious. However, given that applicant has amended the claims and cancelled claims 15-16, such rejection is now moot. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 3-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is hereby withdrawn.

Applicant's argument with respect to the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been fully considered. Applicant argues that Calatayud does not remedy the deficiencies of Magee. Such arguments are not persuasive as the Examiner maintains that Magee does indeed render obvious applicant's invention since Magee discloses a pharmaceutical composition for treating rhinitis comprising active ingredients such as ciclesonide and azelastine along with PDE4 inhibitors. Calatayud, on the other hand, was provided to demonstrate that R and S epimers of ciclesonide can be made as a mixture for therapeutic agents. Importantly, Calatayud teaches that the mixture of R and S epimers possesses a high anti-inflammatory activity and high therapeutic index with minimal side effects. Consequently, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to utilize the mixture of ciclesonide in the composition of Magee since Calatayud teaches that the mixture of ciclesonide possesses a high therapeutic index with minimal side effects.

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Applicant's argument with respect to the rejection of claims 1-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Szelenyl has been fully considered. Applicant argues that Szelenyl does not provide any motivation to the skilled artisan to pick and choose the two compounds presently claimed. Applicant further argues that Schmidt does not remedy the deficient teachings of the Szelenyl. Such arguments are not found persuasive as Szelenyl teaches the use of a soft steroid such as loteprednol and at least one histamine such as azelastine for the treatment of allergic rhinitis. Szelenyl does not teach addition of ciclesonide to the composition. Schmidt, on the other hand, was provided to demonstrate that the soft steroid, ciclesonide, is effective in treating allergic rhinitis without producing local or systemic effects. Consequently, the Examiner contends that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute the soft steroid ciclesonide of Schmidt for the soft steroid loteprednol of Szelenyl since Schmidt teaches that ciclesonide is effective in treating allergic rhinitis without the complication of local or systemic effects. As a result, the Examiner maintains that Szelenyl in view of Schmidt does indeed render obvious applicant's invention. However, in view of applicant's amendment and cancellation of claims 15-16, the rejection of claims 1, 3-16, 18, and 20 over Szelenyl in view of Schmidt is hereby withdrawn. As for applicant's arguments of non-obviousness over claim 19, the Examiner reiterate the fact that Calatayud was provided to demonstrate that the mixture of R and S epimers of ciclesonide possesses high anti-inflammatory and therapeutic properties with minimal side effects. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to substitute the mixture of R and S epimers

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of ciclesonide into the modified composition of Szelenyl and Schmidt with the reasonable expectation of obtaining a composition comprising ciclesonide and azelastine with high anti-inflammatory properties and high therapeutic index with minimal side effects.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejections of record are withdrawn. However, in view of applicant's amendment and cancellation of claims 15-16, the following modified 103 (a) Non-Final rejections are being made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-14, 18, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Magee et al. (U.S. 2002/0111495 A1, previously cited).

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Magee et al. teach the use of selective PDE4 inhibitors for improved therapeutic treatment of a number of inflammatory, respiratory and allergic diseases including chronic rhinitis (i.e. allergic rhinitis; instant claim 18; see pg. 1, paragraph 0006 and pg. 81, paragraphs 0467-0472). Magee et al. further teach that the present compounds can be used together in combination with one or more therapeutic agents including antihistaminic H2 receptor antagonists such as azelastine (instant claims 1 and 18), the steroid ciclesonide and pharmaceutically carriers (instant claim 1; see pg. 34, paragraph 0218 and pg. 92, paragraph 0570-0571). The compositions of Magee et al. can be administered to humans (instant claim 20; see pg. 76, paragraph 0423). Magee et al. further teach that the route of administration can critically affect bioavailability, solubility of the active agents and rapid absorption (see pg. 100, paragraph 0677). By carriers, Magee et al. teach addition of acceptable diluents, adjuvants, vehicles viscosity modifiers and other agents known to the artisan for providing favorable properties to the final pharmaceutical composition including water as a solvent, salts such as sodium chloride for isotonic properties (i.e. osmotic pressure-controlling agent; instant claim 7), cellulose-based substances such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose (i.e. water soluble polymer; instant claims 8-9 and 12), polyethylene glycol as a wetting agent,

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polyethylene polyoxypropylene block polymer as a surfactant (instant claim 13), emollients, humectants such as glycerin (instant claim 13), surfactants and sugars such as glucose (instant claim 7; see pg. 100-102, paragraphs 0677, 0688 and 0697-0698). Magee et al. further teach that the composition for intranasal application (i.e. nasal mucosa, instant claim 14; see pg. 104, paragraph 0708).

Magee et al. do not specifically teach a composition with a particular osmotic pressure or a composition containing microcrystalline cellulose as solid particles in an aqueous medium.

However, Magee et al. do teach the addition of water-low soluble substances such as cellulose derivatives which encompasses all substances containing cellulose including microcrystalline cellulose which are solid particles before addition to the pharmaceutical composition. Moreover, Magee et al. teach the use of viscosity modifiers and given that microcrystalline cellulose is a well-known viscosity modifier, one of ordinary skill would readily add such compound as solid particles as to obtain the desired product with the desired osmotic pressure. Additionally, Magee et al. teach the addition of osmotic pressure controlling agents including glucose and sodium chloride. Consequently, the Examiner maintains that these agents would necessarily affect the osmotic pressure of the composition due to their tonicity properties. Thus, to acquire the desired osmotic pressure for enhancing the bioavailability of the active ingredients as suggested by Magee et al., one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to vary

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the concentration of the osmotic pressure controlling agents in a particular form in the composition of Magee.

Moreover, applicant is reminded that a prior art reference may "render obvious" without disclosing a feature of the claimed invention, as long as that missing characteristic is necessarily present, or inherent, in the anticipating reference. Please see *Continental Can Co. v. Monsanto Co.*, 948 F.2d 1264, 1268 (Fed. Cir. 1991). Other precedents of the court have held that inherent anticipation does not require that a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time would have recognized the inherent disclosure. Please see, e.g., *In re Cruciferous Sprout Litig.*, 301 F.3d 1343, 1351 (Fed. Circ. 2002); *MEHL/Biophile Int'l Corp. v. Milgraum*, 192 F.3d 1362, 1366 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (Where the result is a necessary consequence of what was deliberately intended, it is of no import that the article's authors did not appreciate the results". In the instant case, the unappreciated osmotic pressure of Magee's composition does not require recognition by Magee et al.

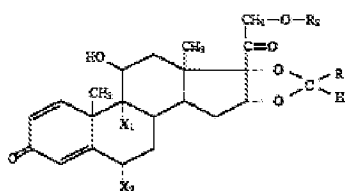
Thus, to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to utilize the method of Magee et al. to treat allergic rhinitis while varying the concentration of the osmotic pressure controlling agents since Magee et al. teach that addition of osmotic pressure agents can lead to enhancement of the bioavailability of the active ingredients in the composition. Given that Magee et al. teach a method of treating allergic rhinitis with PDE4 inhibitors, azelastine and ciclesonide with additional excipients, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to utilize the method of Magee et al. and vary the concentration of water soluble agents

and osmotic pressure controlling agents with the reasonable expectation of providing a composition that is efficacious in treating allergic rhinitis and a composition that is readily absorbed.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Magee et al. (U.S. 2002/0111495 A1, previously cited) as applied to claims 1, 3-14, 18, and 20-21 and in further view of Calatayud et al. (U.S. 5,482,934, previously cited).

The Magee reference is as discussed above and incorporated by reference herein. However, Magee does not specifically teach the mixture of the "R" and "S" epimers in a mixing ratio into the composition.

Calatayud et al. teach compounds of the general formula



with X1 and X2 corresponding to H and R1 is a phenyl group and R2 represents radicals such as C=OCH(CH3)CH3 in the form of an R epimer, S epimer or mixture of the R and S epimers (i.e. ciclesonide) as drugs and/or therapeutic agents (see abstract and col. 3, lines 1-61). Calatayud et al. further teach that these compounds possess intense pharmacological activity with no or minimal systemic effects (see col. 2 lines 21-

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23, col. 15, lines 10-11 and col. 16, lines 27-30). Calatayud et al. also teach synthesis of the mixture of ciclesonide with both the R and S epimers in a ratio of 45/55 of R/S (see col. 11, lines 21-61). Importantly, Calatayud et al. teaches that the mixture of R and S epimers of ciclesonide possess high anti-inflammatory activity, high glucocorticoid activity and high therapeutic index (see col. 17-18, table 2-3 compounds 7-9).

Thus, to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to substitute the mixture of epimers of ciclesonide into the composition of Magee et al. to treat allergic rhinitis while varying the concentration of the osmotic pressure controlling agents since Calatayud et al. teach that the mixture of epimers possesses intense glucocorticoid and therapeutic activities with minimal systemic effects. Given that Magee et al. teach a method of treating allergic rhinitis with PDE4 inhibitors, azelastine and ciclesonide with additional excipients, and Calatayud et al. teach mixtures of epimers of ciclesonide with high glucocorticoid activity and minimal systemic effects, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to substitute the mixture of epimers of ciclesonide into the composition of Magee et al. with the reasonable expectation of providing a composition that is efficacious in treating allergic rhinitis and a composition that is readily absorbed with no systemic effects.

Claims 1, 3-14, 18, and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Szelenyl et al. (WO 01/22955, previously cited) in view of Schmidt et al. (J. Clin. Pharmacol. 1999, Vol. 39, pgs. 1062-1069, previously cited).

WO 01/22955 is the PCT counterpart to U.S. 7,022,687 B1. WO 01/22955 A1 is prior art under U.S.C. 102 (b) as a result of its April 05, 2001 publication date. U.S. 7,022,687 B1 is prior art under U.S.C. 102 (e). Because WO 01/22955 and U.S. 7,022,687 B1 appear to have identical disclosures, the U.S. patent is being used as a translation of WO 01/22955 PCT. While any reference hereinafter to column and line numbers will be based upon the U.S. patent disclosure, such reference should be interpreted as referring to the corresponding disclosure of the aforementioned PCT counterpart.

Szelenyl et al. teach the combination of a soft steroid such as loteprednol and at least one antihistamine, such as azelastine and/or levocabastine for the local treatment of allergies and airway disorders including allergic rhinitis (instant claims 1 and 18; see abstract and col. 6, claims 1-2, 4-5, 8). The administration can be intranasal (instant claim 14; see col. 1, line 66, and col. 2, line 53) and can further include solvents such as water, preservatives, water soluble polymer stabilizers such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose or mixtures of microcrystalline cellulose and sodium carboxymethylcellulose known as Avicel RC (instant claims 8-9, 11-12, and 21), isotonicizing agents such as sodium chloride or glucose (i.e. osmotic pressure controlling agents; instant claim 7), and suitable wetting agents (instant claim 13; col. 4, lines 5-14, 29-33, and 45-67).

Szelenyl et al. do not particularly teach a composition containing ciclesonide. Similarly, Szelenyl et al. do not teach a composition with a specific osmotic pressure

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value or a composition containing microcrystalline cellulose as solid particles in an aqueous medium.

While Szelenyl et al. do not teach particular osmotic pressures, he does teach the addition of water soluble substances along with isotonicizing agents which are solid particles in nature in the composition wherein their addition would necessarily affect the osmotic pressure. Thus, it would have been well within the purview of the skilled artisan to experiment with varying concentrations of the aforementioned compounds and various forms of the aforementioned products during routine experimentation in order to obtain the desired product with the desired osmotic pressure.

Schmidt et al. teach the use of the soft steroid, ciclesonide, as an effective steroid in the treatment of allergic rhinitis without producing local or systemic effects (see abstract). Schmidt et al. further teaches that ciclesonide has an "R" epimer with a higher binding affinity than the "S" epimer to the glucocorticoid receptor (see pg. 1063, left col. paragraph 1). This compound can be administered intranasally (see pg. 1063, right col. paragraph 1), was found to be highly effective in the treatment of allergic rhinitis, and led to a rapid alleviation of symptoms without producing systemic side effects (see pg. 1069, left col., last paragraph).

Thus, to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to substitute the ciclesonide of Schmidt et al. for the loteprednol of Szelenyl et al. to treat allergic rhinitis since Schmidt et al. teach that ciclesonide

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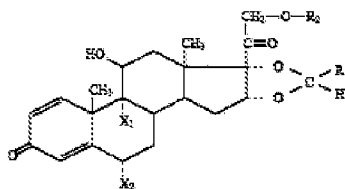
possesses low systemic effects. Moreover, as a general principle it is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose, the idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art. See *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980) **MPEP 2144.06**.

Given that Szelenyl et al. teach a composition containing a soft steroid and antihistamines for treating allergic rhinitis with additional excipients, and Schmidt et al. teach the soft steroid ciclesonide is effective in treating allergic rhinitis without producing local or systemic effects, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to substitute the ciclesonide of Schmidt et al. for the loteprednol of Szelenyl et al. with the reasonable expectation of providing a composition that is efficacious in treating allergic rhinitis and a composition with minimal side effects.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over unpatentable over Szelenyl et al. (WO 01/22955, previously cited) in view of Schmidt et al. (J. Clin. Pharmacol. 1999, Vol. 39, pgs. 1062-1069, previously cited) as applied to claims 1, 3-14, 18, and 20-21 and in further view of Calatayud et al. (U.S. 5,482,934, previously cited).

The Szelenyl et al. reference is as discussed above and incorporated by reference herein. However, Szelenyl et al. do not particularly teach the mixture of the “R” and “S” epimers in a mixing ratio into the composition.

Calatayud et al. teach compounds of the general formula



with X1 and X2 corresponding to H and R1 is a phenyl group and R2 represents radicals such as $\text{C}=\text{OCH}(\text{CH}_3)\text{CH}_3$ in the form of an R epimer, S epimer or mixture of the R and S epimers (i.e. ciclesonide) as drugs and/or therapeutic agents (see abstract and col. 3, lines 1-61). Calatayud et al. further teach that these compounds possess intense pharmacological activity with no or minimal systemic effects (see col. 2 lines 21-23, col. 15, lines 10-11 and col. 16, lines 27-30). Calatayud et al. also teach synthesis of the mixture of ciclesonide with both the R and S epimers in a ratio of 45/55 of R/S (see col. 11, lines 21-61). Importantly, Calatayud et al. teach that the mixture of R and S epimers of ciclesonide possess high anti-inflammatory activity, high glucocorticoid activity and high therapeutic index (see col. 17-18, table 2-3 compounds 7-9).

Thus, to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have found it obvious to substitute the mixture of epimers of ciclesonide into the composition of Szelenyl et al. to treat allergic rhinitis since Calatayud et al. teach that the mixture of

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epimers possesses intense glucocorticoid activity and high therapeutic index with minimal systemic effects. Given that Szelenyl et al. teach a composition of treating allergic rhinitis with azelastine or levocabastine and a soft steroid along with additional excipients, and Schmidt et al. teach the use of ciclesonide for treating allergic rhinitis with low systemic effects, and Calatayud et al. teach mixtures of epimers of ciclesonide with high glucocorticoid activity and minimal systemic effects, one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to substitute the mixture of epimers of ciclesonide for the "R" epimer into the composition of Szelenyl et al. with the reasonable expectation of providing a composition that is efficacious in treating allergic rhinitis and a composition that possesses no systemic effects.

Conclusion

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samira Jean-Louis whose telephone number is 571-270-3503. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-6 PM EST M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sreeni Padmanabhan can be reached on 571-272-0629. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. J. L./

Examiner, Art Unit 1617

09/27/2009

/SREENI PADMANABHAN/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1617